

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing system comprising:

a requester apparatus for making a request for a first process, which is performed on the basis of first processing data upon predetermined processing target data, and a second process, which is performed upon the processing target data subjected to the first process;

a data supplying apparatus for supplying the first processing data;

a first processing apparatus for executing the first process on the basis of the supplied first processing data; and

a second processing apparatus for executing the second process on the basis of its own characteristic upon the processing target data subjected to the first process, wherein:

the first process includes a correction process for correcting on the processing target data, on the basis of the characteristic of the second processing apparatus;

the first processing apparatus makes a request for the first processing data; and

when the first processing data is supplied to the first processing apparatus in response to the request, the first processing apparatus executes the first process on the basis of the supplied first processing data.

2. The data processing system according to claim 1, wherein:

the processing target data is first image data;

the correction process corrects the first image data, on the basis of the characteristic of the second processing apparatus, which executes the second process; and

the first processing data is data indicating the characteristic of the second processing apparatus for executing the second process.

3. The data processing system according to claim 1, wherein:

the second process is a process for forming a second image; and

the second processing apparatus forms the second image on the basis of the its own characteristic.

4. The data processing system according to claim 2, wherein:

the first processing apparatus makes an inquiry to the requester apparatus as to whether or not to execute the first process unless the first processing data is supplied to the first processing apparatus in response to the request; and

the first processing apparatus executes the first process

except the correction process, when an instruction to execute the first process is given from the requester apparatus in response to the inquiry.

5. The data processing system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a third processing apparatus for forming a second image on the basis of its own characteristic, wherein:

when the second processing apparatus forms the second image corresponding to the second image data, the first processing apparatus performs the first process to generate the second image data on the basis of the first processing data corresponding to the second processing apparatus; and

when the third processing apparatus forms the second image corresponding to the second image data, the first processing apparatus performs the first process to generate the second image data on the basis of second processing data, which is used to correct the first image data so as to conform a result of image formation by the second processing apparatus to a result of image formation by the third processing apparatus.

6. The data processing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

an accounting device for accounting for use of one of

the first processing data and the second processing data when the one of the first processing data and the second processing data is used in the first process.

7. An image processing apparatus for performing a color correction process on the basis of:

first color characteristic data indicating color characteristic with which a first image forming apparatus forms image data, and

second color characteristic data indicating color characteristic with which a second image forming apparatus forms the image data,

so as to conform a result of an image into which the second image forming apparatus forms the image data to a result of another image into which the first image forming apparatus forms the image data,

the image processing apparatus comprising:

an acquisition unit for acquiring the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data;

a generation unit for generating third color characteristic data, which is used in the color correction process, from the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data;

an evaluation unit for evaluating quality of the third color characteristic data;

a calculation unit for calculating a fee for generating the third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation; and

an accounting device for accounting for the calculated fee.

8. An image processing apparatus comprising:

a first process unit for executing a first process upon first image data on the basis of first processing data in response to a request from a requester apparatus, so as to obtain second image data; and

a processing data request unit for making a request for the first processing data, wherein:

when the first processing data is supplied in response to the request of the processing data request unit, the first process unit executes the first process including a correction process for correcting characteristic of a second processing apparatus, which will perform a second process upon the second image data.

9 The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the first process unit makes an inquiry to the requester apparatus as to whether or not to execute the first process unless the first processing data is supplied in response to

the request; and

the first process unit executes the first process except the correction process when an instruction to execute the first process is given from the requester apparatus in response to the inquiry.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a second processing unit for forming the second image data on the basis of second characteristic; wherein:

when the second image data is formed on the basis of first characteristic, the first process unit performs the first process on the basis of the first processing data corresponding to the first characteristic, to generate the second image data;

when the second processing unit forms the second image data, the first process unit performs the first process on the basis of second processing data to generate the second image data; and

the second processing data is used to correct the first image data as the second image data so as to conform a result of image formation with the first characteristic to a result of image formation by the second processing unit.

11. An accounting apparatus for accounting for use of

first processing data in a first process on first image data,
the accounting apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving a notice from image
processing apparatus, wherein:

the image processing apparatus includes:

a first process unit for executing a first process
on the first image data on the basis of the first processing
data in response to a request from a requester apparatus;
and

a processing data request unit for making a request
for the first processing data; and

the notice indicates that the first process unit has
executed the first process including a correction process for
correcting the second image data on the basis of first
characteristic with the first processing data supplied in
response to the request unit,

the accounting apparatus further comprising:

an accounting device for accounting the requester
apparatus for the use of the first processing data in the first
process the execution of which the notice has been given.

12. The accounting apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein:

the second image data is further formed on the basis of
second characteristic;

when the second image data is formed on the basis of the first characteristic, the first process is performed on the basis of the first processing data corresponding to the first characteristic so as to generate the second image data;

when the second data is formed on the basis of the second characteristic, the first process is performed on the basis of second processing data;

the second processing data is used to correct the first image data as the second image data so as to conform a result of image formation with the first characteristic to a result of image formation by the second processing unit;

the reception unit receives the notification of the execution of the first process, which is based on one of the first processing data and the second processing data; and

the accounting device accounts on the requester for the use of the one of the first processing data and the second processing data in the first process about the execution of which the notice has been given.

13. A data processing method comprising:

making a request for a first process, which is performed on the basis of first processing data upon predetermined processing target data, and a second process, which is performed upon the processing target data subjected to the first process;

supplying the first processing data;

executing the first process on the basis of the supplied first processing data by a first process apparatus; and

executing the second process on the basis of a predetermined characteristic upon the processing target data subjected to the first process by a second process apparatus, wherein:

the first process includes a correction process for correcting the processing target data, on the basis of the characteristic of the second processing apparatus, which executes the second process;

the first processing apparatus makes a request for the first processing data when the first process is executed; and

when the first processing data is supplied to the first processing apparatus in response to the request, the first processing apparatus executes the first process on the basis of the supplied first processing data.

14. An image processing method for performing a color correction process on the basis of:

first color characteristic data indicating color characteristic with which a first image forming apparatus forms image data, and

second color characteristic data indicating color characteristic with which a second image forming apparatus forms the image data,

so as to conform a result of an image into which the second image forming apparatus forms the image data to a result of another image into which the first image forming apparatus forms the image data,

the image processing method comprising:

acquiring the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data;

generating third color characteristic data, which is used in the color correction process, from the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data;

evaluating quality of the third color characteristic data;

calculating a fee for generating the third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation; and

accounting for the calculated fee.

15. An image processing method for executing a first process upon first image data on the basis of first processing data in response to a request from a requester apparatus, so as to obtain second image data, the method comprising:

making a request for the first processing data; and

executing the first process including a correction process for correcting characteristic of a second processing apparatus, which will perform a second process upon the second

image data, when the first processing data is supplied in response to the request of the processing data request unit.

16. An accounting method for accounting for use of first processing data in a first process on first image data, the method comprising:

executing the first process on the first image data on the basis of the first processing data in response to a request from a requester apparatus so as to generate second image data;

making a request for the first processing data;

receiving a notice indicating that the first process including that a correction process for correcting the second image data on the basis of first characteristic has been executed with the first processing data supplied in response to the request; and

accounting on the requester apparatus for the use of the first processing data in the first process about the execution of which the notice has been given.